755 son suffering from fever, for example, pares the nails of his fingers and toes, and cuts a little hair from the four corners of his head; he then inserts the clippings in the stem of a rotten tree, closes the hole tightly, and runs home as fast as he can, saying: "May you not return until I myself shall come back for you!" [118] Mention might be made here of the belief that hair from one's head should not be thrown on the dung pile, for if a bird should appropriate it in building its nest the person would lose his hair. On the other hand, one can make his hair grow long and thick by throwing a few locks into fire or water.[119]

Human and animal exuviae are also believed to possess valuable curative qualities. Human nails and hair, the bones of meat consecrated on Easter, skin from the head of a dog, the hoof of a horse, and the excrements of domestic animals and fowl all serve as ingredients in the concoctions prepared for different ailments.[120] A cure for a cataract is compounded of the white of an egg, flour, and the dried and pulverized excreta of a child.[121] The excrement of a black cow is one of the ingredients in a remedy for a toothache; pieces of a horse's hoof are used in a fever cure; and the fat of a black cat or a stork forms a necessary element in a concoction to relieve rheumatism.[122] Pain in the eyes is soothed by an application of woman's milk.[123] Warts are removed by wetting them with the foam from a horse's urine. Human urine is considered an emetic and is used as an antidote for alcohol poisoning.[124]

• 825 754 Among living things, the frog plays the most important role in native medicine. A frog is thought to be endowed with extraordinary powers, which can be used either for good or for evil. A witch, for example, often makes use of a frog, sending it to the house of her enemy to bring affliction upon it. A frog must not be killed; if suspected as the agent of witchcraft, it may only be wrapped up and hung on a beam in the house. A boy who kills a frog may 825 bring death to his father.[125] On the other hand, this amphibian 757 is considered a clean animal. If one is found in a well, for

[118] Kolberg, *Pokucie*, iii, p. 173.
[119] Kolberg, *Przemyskie*, p. 235.
[120] Kolberg, *Pokucie*, iii, 164.
[121] *Ibid.*, p. 163.
[122] *Ibid.*, pp. 164, 167, 171.
[123] Kaindl, *Die Huzulen*, p. 94.
[124] *Ibid.*, p. 95.
[125] Kolberg, *Pokucie*, iii, 137, 144.

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example, the water is sure to be pure. It also possesses valuable therapeutic qualities and is consequently employed in treating divers ailments. A cataract, for instance, is cured by applying a tiny living frog to the eye. A sufferer from fever is given brandy in which a frog has been immersed, or is made to carry a frog, wrapped in a piece of cloth, in his bosom until it dies, whereupon the fever disappears. Another fever cure consists in putting three, or sometimes nine, lice into a glass of brandy, which is then given to the unwitting patient to drink.[126]

The range of ingredients in medicinal preparations is almost infinite. Some of the concoctions are harmless, and many are useless, while a considerable number are probably definitely harmful. Liquor is widely used, as though the people were really aware of the therapeutic value of alcohol. A drink or an application of brandy serves as a kind of first-aid in any emergency, and liquor in some form serves either as the base or as an essential ingredient in nearly every compound.

Thus a patient suffering from fever is given a drink of whisky containing ground garlic, or is made to eat a piece of bread wrapped in a cobweb. A swelling is treated by applying to it a hot white onion. Dysentery is cured by having the patient drink brandy to which is added some clay peeled off the oven of a room in which no death has ever occurred. Massage with the fat of a black cat is recommended for rheumatism.[127] A sufferer from diarrhœa is massaged with butter and then bathed in water in which rye straw or dumplings have been boiled.[128] A headache is relieved by pouring cold water from a well over the patient's head until the pain subsides, and a toothache by an application of alcohol, cold water, or a mixture of ground pepper and garlic. A victim of a sore throat may rid himself of the ailment by fastening thin strips of raw bacon, or the excrement of a pig, around his neck, and by gargling his throat with an infusion of laudanum. Inflammation of the lungs is cured by massaging the body with alcohol in which soap and camphor have been diluted, or by an application of leeches. An abscess is treated by applying a salve prepared either of

[126] *Ibid.*, pp. 144, 163, 171, 174. [127] *Ibid.*, pp. 166-67, 171, 174.
[128] Kolberg, *Przemyskie*, p. 239.